

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Air Power

Quote of the Week

"Aviation is proof that we have the capacity to achieve the impossible."

—Eddie Rickenbacker

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Shots to resume

*Select airmen will
get FDA approved
anthrax vaccinations*

Compiled from staff reports

Courtesy 47th Medical Group

Pentagon officials recently announced that they are restarting a modified anthrax vaccination program now that the vaccine's provider has passed Food and Drug Administration scrutiny.

People who will receive the vaccine under the modified provisions include military members, emergency-essential DoD civilians and contractor personnel, assigned to or deployed for more than 15 days in higher threat areas, whose performance is essential for certain mission critical capabilities.

Those who have received anthrax vaccinations in the past and fall within the groups defined by this policy will resume as soon as their units begin vaccinations. Others, not

covered under the current policy, will resume as soon as the anthrax vaccine supply allows.

Currently, the Laughlin Air Force Base Immunizations Clinic does not have the anthrax vaccine in stock. Members requiring this vaccine will be notified by immunizations when the vaccine arrives.

"We recognize there is a domestic need for access to the vaccine," said Dr. Bill Winkenwerder, assistant defense secretary for health affairs. "In collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Homeland Security, we are reserving a portion of the anthrax vaccine for stockpiling...to use in the event of a domestic emergency."

The doctor said DoD medical officials hope to start vaccinating targeted servicemembers 45 days before they deploy. The anthrax vaccine requires six shots throughout an

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Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Keep 'em flying

Karl Bollmann, an airframe mechanic with Laughlin Civil Service Aircraft Maintenance, rigs a landing gear control handle on a T-37. One T-37 has been sent to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, also known as the 'bone yard,' at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Nine are scheduled to be transferred this year. See next week's *Border Eagle* for the story.

Deaths during '101 Critical Days' campaign at all time high

Compiled from staff reports

The Air Force's 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign is only half over and already it has been the worst in years.

Since May 27, the beginning of the campaign, the Air Force has had 13 off-duty ground fatalities. This year alone there have been 71 ground fatalities, a sobering increase of 64 percent from the same time in 2000 and 2001 — 66 of which were off-duty.

"Our threat is clearly off-duty activities," said

Lt. Col. Robert Craven, chief of the 47th Flying Training Wing safety office. "That's why the Air Force calls it the 101 critical days. School's out, the weather's nice and the days are long and warm. People flock to the highways, lakes, beaches and mountains and become complacent. That's when accidents happen.

"Unfortunately, what frequently begins as a pleasant road trip, quickly becomes a cold and tragic statistic in the blink of an eye," he said.

Of the 66 off-duty fatalities so far this year, 42 were from automobile accidents, 16 were on mo-

torcycles, four were drownings and four were contributed to sports, bicycle or miscellaneous activities.

"One common thread strings all but three of these mishaps together — carelessness, recklessness, inattention and fatigue," said Colonel Craven.

All but three of the motorcycle mishaps were the rider's fault and most lost control due to excessive speed. An alarming number of the auto mishaps were the result of crossing the centerline or

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the inside Scoop

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Sports and Health:

Support your unit's intramural softball team. See the schedule of the next week's games in the sports section.

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Commanders' Corner

By Lt. Col. Kathryn Hall
47th Medical Operations Support Squadron

"Take care of yourself" to help mission

When a military healthcare beneficiary enrolls in our military healthcare plan, TRICARE, they receive a book entitled "Take Care of Yourself." Sounds pretty clear-cut, but I wonder how many people actually focus on taking care of themselves?

In today's expanding information age, I fear the message is often lost.

In an article published in January, I discussed how important it is to let people in our lives know that they are valued. I mentioned that the very act of defining value is quite variable, but if tasked, I believe that every individual could identify someone that they truly value.

In contrast, if asked about valuing one's self, I doubt few would step forward with a strong affirmative response. The sad truth is that many individuals take for granted the miracle of life they represent with their very being.

Air Force core values dictate integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do. We are socialized to be humble and to focus on the needs of the group. Within communities we learn to strive for the "greater good for the greater all."

It's unfortunate that it's easy to forget that there will be no service if there is no self.

"Give a man a fish and you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish and you have fed him for a lifetime" – Author unknown. This prophecy, if applied to taking care of one's self, is probably a revelation as well. I fear many people don't fully understand that taking care of themselves is critical to taking care of others.

To take it a step further, how many people have been confronted with a lesson their child learned from watching them, that they didn't mean to teach? This is why it is so important to role model behaviors that should be practiced. Things that are practiced become habits and if we could somehow mould all our habits to be good ones, we would truly be taking care of ourselves.

As a healthcare provider I have the privilege of helping people to take care of themselves. It has never ceased to amaze me how often they come to me with disappointment on how they've done things they know are not good for them. The endless number of times I've heard "You're going to be upset with me... I didn't finish my

medicine, lose any weight, quit smoking or follow any of the instructions I was given to take care of myself."

They often display surprise when I assure them that I am certainly not upset with them and point out how no one could ever be as upset with them as they are when they don't take care of themselves.

We are, sadly, our own worst critics. I view my most important job in taking care of people, as celebrating every unique feature that makes them different from one another and in helping them to appreciate what a miracle they have been given with their very life.

"Take care of yourself" is some of the best advice a person could ever receive. Celebrate your achievements and learn from your disappointments. Accept that you will have setbacks and don't let them impact your goals.

"Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal..." – Author unknown. Aim high with those goals and avoid giving any attention to the obstacles on the way. But most importantly, never forget how important it is to take care of yourself.

Top Three Talk

By Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis
47th Flying Training Wing career adviser



There are many points to ponder when retraining

Before we get into the retraining process and qualifiers, you need to ask yourself a few questions. Am I happy with my current Air Force job and is it what I want to do for the rest of my Air Force career? Am I seeking retraining just for the Selective Reenlistment Bonus? Am I selecting a re-

train because it is what I want to do after I retire? Does the career field I am choosing deploy frequently and how will that affect my family?

I hope these questions are generating more questions in your mind before making a retraining selection.

■ Am I eligible to retrain?

The fact is all first-term airmen

are authorized to retrain but there are disqualifiers that will inhibit your ability to retrain which are listed in Air Force Instruction 36-2626 paragraph 3.3. It is very important to perform to the best of your ability in your current job. If you look at retraining in a

See 'Retrain,' page 4



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Correction

The front page story about Col. Kenneth Smith in last week's Border Eagle stated Colonel Smith was once the commander of the 85th Flying Training Squadron. He was the operations officer.



By Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff



Gen. Jumper

Conference was a great vector check

This year's CORONA Top was a true leadership gathering. The conference was held in conjunction with the Air Force's Transformation Summit which included representatives from industry, the political arena and government.

One of our guest speakers, Herb Kelleher, President of Southwest Airlines, told the audience that "only in change is there security," highlighting the reality that those who fail to adapt face an unenviable future. Another guest, Newt Gingrich, challenged us to "set very big goals with short timelines and delegate the authority to achieve those goals," emphasizing the ability to create your future through proactive involvement. Mark Herman, from Booze Allen & Hamilton, reminded the audience that "transformation was a journey rather than a destination," underlying the fact that we must embrace change and the opportunities it provides.

One aspect of the post-September environment is the reality that we are no longer experiencing surge operations; rather, we are faced with a new, higher standard of operations tempo. And while our operational rhythm will fluctuate with world events, it is unlikely we will return to a pre-September level. Given this new reality, our success hinges on the ability to meet our future head-on. This requires a responsive, agile, and deployable force, presented in the form of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force. Flexibility is a key element of our rich heritage and will remain so in the future.

■ Proactive Adjustments

Unfortunately, our past success guarantees nothing, further it can potentially stifle creative thought. The Air Force can ill afford to merely stand by and watch the future play out. We must proactively engage those areas within our control to maintain our combat effectiveness. Several such areas were addressed at CORONA Top.

One opportunity before us is to expand the number of USAF members included in our deployment unit type codes and to ensure that, to the extent possible, we deploy our forces as units as opposed to the piecemeal fashion with which we have become all too familiar. We must develop properly sized UTCs for everything we do. This does two things: it provides all airmen the opportunity to participate in our worldwide commitments,

and it helps decrease the demand on those airmen who are currently carrying more than their share of our deployment burden.

The demands on our deployed forces are increasingly dynamic. We will continue to emphasize training that guarantees our airmen are prepared to deploy fully mission capable, and ready to hit the ground running upon arrival at the deployed location. These efforts will dramatically enhance the capability of one of our most dynamic weapons systems, the Combined Air Operations Center.

■ Capabilities Focus

The USAF is leading DoD's effort to transition from a program-centric focus to one based on capabilities and effects. We are taking transformational steps to maximize our warfighting capabilities. These include the standup of the Combat Wing Organization, the development of capabilities-based concept of operations, and changing the way we plan, program, and budget for the future.

■ Seamless Integration

We continue to emphasize the seamless integration of manned, unmanned, and space systems. It is through such integration that we achieve the greatest return on our investment in our warfighting capabilities. These integration efforts include fully integrating combat, mobility, and space forces into Joint Synthetic Battlespace simulations; creating "Red-Flag-like" training for our Mission Support Group commanders; and designating a greater role for ASEAN Regional Forum forces in the CAOC.

As DoD's executive agent for space, the Air Force has a responsibility to properly integrate space operations into DoD's warfighting structure. This will necessitate a far-reaching vision which will be closely monitored by our sister services and other organizations interested in space operations.

■ Conclusion

CORONA Top was an excellent vector check as we chart our course to remain the world's premier air and space power. America's adversaries have demonstrated their willingness to challenge us both at home and abroad—make no mistake, the threat is real. Our nation's security can only be guaranteed through the dedication of its military professionals. The challenge before us is to proactively shape our future. America's freedom depends on it.

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.



Col. Rick Rosborg
47th FTW Commander

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Airmanship

Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force's vision of aerospace power

What does synchronization mean?

Synchronization means arranging events or activities to occur at the same time. Synchronization is important in the conduct of military operations and complement integration. At the operational level, airmen view synchronization among components as an essential step in working together towards common objectives.



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Life's blood

Teresa Diaz, South Texas Blood & Tissue Center phlebotomist, extracts blood from Stephanie Enyeart, daughter of 47th Flying Training Wing command chief Chief Master Sgt. Steven and

Lynette Enyeart, during a blood drive at the Fiesta Center July 12. The donated blood will be sent to where it is needed most. The next blood drive is scheduled for Sept. 11.

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monetary value, the Air Force will not invest money in any asset that is not performing up to standards. So do your best and press on.

■ When am I eligible to retrain?

People who enlisted for four years are eligible between their 35th and 43th month and six-year enlistees are eligible between their 59th and 67th month of active duty service. My recommendation is to apply for retraining at the earliest possible date.

■ How many career fields can I select?

You can select up to five, and I suggest you use them all. Each selection will be looked at (boarded) three times over a three-month window from the time of your application. So if you use all five selections you have 15 chances (boards) of being selected. Mark on your calendar when you submitted and check your status monthly, if you have not been selected after 60 days you may want to change some of your selections to be better competitive.

■ How are selections made?

Air Force Personnel Center selects personnel based on a quality review. Quality review indicators play an important role in the retraining process. For example: There are 200 jobs available for Air Force Specialty Code, 3C2X1 (Communications Computer Systems) and 500 people have applied for cross-training. AFPC uses the following criteria to rank the applications: Most recent enlisted performance report, current grade, projected grade, next three EPRs, date of rank; total active federal military service date and Air Force classification test score.

It is important to know what your AFCT score is when applying. It is the initial test you took to enter the Air Force. If your scores are not high enough to be eligible for one of the career fields you want to select, you can retake the test by calling 298-5350. Also if you are approved for a retrain you become eligible for an assignment.

If you have further questions on retraining, contact the Master Sgt. Morris Coleman at 298-5074.

If you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

Newslines

Ice cream social

The enlisted spouses club is having an ice cream social at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Airman's Attic. All enlisted spouses and single enlisted members are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call 298-1251.

Business class

The Family Support Center is holding a class on starting your own business from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 Wednesday at the FSC conference room. Elizabeth Pena, a representative from the Small Business Development Center, will be the guest speaker. She will explain all the basics involved with starting a business.

For more information or to R.S.V.P. by Monday, call 298-5620.

Hispanic Heritage meeting

The Laughlin Hispanic Heritage Committee is having a meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Club XL. For more information, call 298-5291.

Tobacco Cessation Course

The next Tobacco Cessation Course starts at 11:30 a.m., August 6, at the Wellness Center conference room.

For more information, call 298-6463 or 298-6464.

Savings bonds

This year's national savings bond campaign has come to an end, but savings bonds can still be purchased.

Bonds can be purchased at finance, local banks, on the internet and, in some cases, at super-market stores.

If you have any questions about savings bonds, see your squadron representative, or call 1st Lt. Michael Zwolve at 298-4344.

Citizenship laws

President George W. Bush signed an executive order July 4 changing the law regarding citizenship. The change states any alien or non-citizen serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces after Sept. 11, 2001, is immediately eligible for naturalization.

For more information, call the Customer Service office at 298-5244 or 298-5828.

AETC declares initial operational capability for JPATS

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE — The commander of Air Education and Training Command announced initial operational capability today for the newest training system in the Air Force.

Gen. Don Cook put his stamp of approval on the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System, which uses the T-6A Texan II as its flying platform.

JPATS is a new concept in training that ties together all the logistics necessary to create a total primary pilot package for the Air Force and Navy.

The final piece of the puzzle needed to complete the system was the Training Integration Management System, which concluded developmental testing in early June.

TIMS is a computer network that provides automated training planning, execution and administration functions that integrate the information and support for each training element.

Completion of TIMS and other developmental and operational milestones led to the declaration of initial operational capability.

"Our operations have shown JPATS to be a very effective training system," General Cook said in his announcement. "All components of



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Manuel Martinez

Student pilot 2nd Lt. Andy Gray gets situated in the cockpit with direction from Maj. Steve Lombert, an instructor pilot, during pre-flight operations before the first instructor-student sorties in the T-6A at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

JPATS are in place and operational at Moody AFB, Ga. We have completed two student classes through the T-6A portion of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. Moody will be operating at full T-6A student pilot production capacity in mid-July."

The inaugural class of 15 undergraduate students, including two members of the Navy, completed their six-month JPATS training April 26 at Moody.

A new class of students will begin training every three weeks with the 3rd Flying Training Squadron, and the unit will train about 250 students each year.

Other undergraduate pilot training bases will receive JPATS through 2009, as the Air Force builds an inventory of nearly 400 T-6As over the next seven years.

Laughlin Air Force Base is scheduled to receive the T-6 by the end of the year.

The T-6A is a single-engine turboprop, two-seat trainer designed to teach students basic flying skills common to all military pilots. The aircraft is fully aerobatic and features a pressurized cockpit with an anti-G system and an advanced avionics package with sunlight-readable liquid crystal displays.

It will eventually replace the Air Force T-37 and the Navy T-34C.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

SECAF, CSAF: Total force key in war on terrorism

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Ask Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche what impresses him about Air Force contributions in the war on terror, and he might mention high-tech weapons put to use against the Taliban, or he might tell you a story about combat controllers on horseback helping guide bombs into al-Qaida bunkers.

But, the Air Force's ability to use all of the components — Guard, Reserve and active forces — in the total force concept has been paramount to the success of the operation, Roche said July 10 in an interview taped for the July 22 and Aug. 5 editions of Air Force Television News.

"I think if there's ever an opportu-

"I think if there's ever an opportunity to prove the total force concept of the Air Force, this was it,"

-- Dr. James G. Roche, SECAF

nity to prove the total force concept of the Air Force, this was it," Roche said. "It was terrific to see the Guard, Reserve and active forces step up like they did in both operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said in the same interview that both he and the secretary realize that the Air Force could not do what it does without the Guard and Reserve.

"They're absolutely critical to ev-

erything we do," General Jumper said. He is sometimes criticized if he doesn't mention the Guard or Reserve in speeches he gives around the world. "I feel like I don't have to. I assume it in every aspect of the mission and every mission of the Air Force."

The two leaders also recognize the sacrifices made by employers who have to fill voids caused when employees are asked to put on the uniforms.

"We brought a lot of people on active duty with the blessings of their bosses," General Jumper said. "We can't take advantage of that. So we're working very hard in making sure that we get the people back to their employers and get them back home again."

vaccination program will remain mandatory for troops in areas covered by the policy.

Information regarding anthrax and vaccination can be found at www.anthrax.osd.mil. People with questions can contact the Laughlin Public Health office at 298-6380.

Others who started the shots previously but are not currently covered under the new program will receive the rest of their shots "later into 2002, possibly as late as 2003, and that's because the supply of the vaccine is limited," Winkenwerder said.

Even though it is scaled back, the

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going off the road. Only two of the 42 auto fatalities were not the driver's fault.

"We at Laughlin know all too well that we are not immune to senseless mishaps, but people need to remember they have a choice," he said. "Think before you go on that long drive after a long day at work. Think before you ride into that curve just a little too fast. Think before you drink. Think about the risks and what you have to lose. Is it worth it? Will your family and friends think it was worth it? Will they be proud of your senseless sacrifice?"

The 101 critical days are far from over, but it's not too late to stop the current trend of mishaps.

"People should maintain focus, think before they act and remember personal and professional safety awareness doesn't end on Labor Day," said Colonel Craven. "Enjoy your summer, your family, your friends, but do so safely so you can enjoy them for many years to come!"

'Anthrax,' from page 1

18-month period for maximum immunity, but a relatively high level of immunity is reached after the first three shots, he said.

Individuals who started the six-shot series under the previous guidelines will resume the series where they left off.

New leaders touch down at Laughlin

Compiled from staff reports

A new squadron commander and wing staff agency chief recently joined Team XL.

Lt. Col. Jeff Kubiak assumes command of the 86th Flying Training Squadron in a change-of-command ceremony today and Lt. Col. Robert Craven took over as 47th Flying Training Wing safety chief July 1.

86th Flying Training Squadron

Hometown: Green Bay, Wis.

Time in service: 18 years

Education: Bachelor of Science Degree from United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.; master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; master's degree from Air Command and Staff College

Previous assignments: Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.; Ellsworth AFB, S.D.; Ramstein AB, Germany; Vance AFB, Okla.

Greatest feat: I have four of them; my wife, Toni; and my children, Steve, Katie and Allie.

Leadership philosophy: "If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around." — Will Rogers

Personal hero: My father

Favorite quote: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." — Aristotle



Kubiak

Hobbies: Spending time on the lake with my family

Bad habit: Procrastinating unpleasant tasks

47th Flying Training Wing chief of safety

Hometown: Marion, Ohio

Time in service: 20 years, 4 months

Education: Bachelor of Professional Aeronautics Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Master of Aeronautical Science Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Squadron Officers School in residence; Air Command and Staff College seminar; Air War College seminar

Previous assignments: Fort Rucker, Ala.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Vance AFB, Okla.; Royal Air Force Woodbridge, United Kingdom; Williams AFB, Ariz.; Randolph AFB; Kadena Air Base, Japan; Hickam AFB, Hawaii

Greatest feat: Becoming an officer in the Air Force

Leadership philosophy: Take care of your people and the mission will take care of itself

Personal hero: My wife

Favorite quote: "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." — Unknown

Hobbies: Car care and road trips

Bad habit: Pizza and popcorn



Craven



Laughlin Salutes

Re-enlistments

♦ Staff Sgt. Antonio Gomez, 47th Security Forces Squadron

Promotions

♦ Airman Brianna Barnhart, 47th Security Forces Squadron

♦ Airman Jennifer Johnson, 47th Security Forces Squadron

♦ Senior Airman Michael Robinson, 47th Security Forces Squadron

♦ Staff Sgt. Jessica Summerlin, 47th Security Forces Squadron

Thinking about getting out? Think again!

Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

People First: Air Force Aid Society helps airmen, families

By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The events of Sept. 11 affected Air Force families in many ways, but for many who knew about the Air Force Aid Society, their hardship was lessened when emergency assistance arrived in the form of loans and grants.

It is an airmen-helping-airmen philosophy with a 60-year tradition, said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, AFAS chief executive officer.

"It's about everybody giving a couple of bucks today because they know it will go to somebody who truly needs it," he said. "Tomorrow they might just be the ones who need it."

AFAS was born during World War II, created by Gen. Hap Arnold and his wife to help the families of

airmen lost in the war, and to help fund the education of their children.

Today the official charity of the U.S. Air Force not only provides more than \$8 million each year in education programs, but it is also helping to soften the sacrifices of a new generation going to war.

Last year AFAS helped more than 32,000 people with more than \$25 million in one form of assistance or another.

"That's a lot of help," General McGinty said. "That's why I can go home at night and say I have the very best job in America."

Assistance can be as simple as a phone card or as involved as getting a special lift installed on a van for a handicapped family member.

"We have no regulations," General McGinty said. "We simply have a

guidebook because you cannot possibly write something that will cover every situation a family can get into. We've helped airmen who've gotten behind on their bills to get their gas and electric turned back on. We provided a visual baby monitor so that a deaf spouse could take care of her baby while her husband was deployed."

Funding for AFAS comes from two primary sources: the Air Force Assistance Fund drive and investment returns. Despite substantial contributions in recent months, current events worldwide have drained those resources considerably, the general said.

"The good news is that the fund drive brought in \$460,000 more this year," General McGinty said. "The bad news is that we were still about \$1.5 million short of what we had

hoped for. The challenge that we're facing right now is that demand for help from the AFAS is up about 7 percent over the previous year.

"Only about 24 percent of eligible airmen participated in the AFAF drive," the general said. "We need to really increase that percentage to keep meeting the needs of our airmen in these difficult times. Remember this is an airmen-helping-airmen program."

"Somewhere in our Air Force today there is somebody who will need help and, for one reason or another, won't get it," he said. "They don't know the help exists, they're afraid to ask for it, or they feel there's a stigma to asking for help. There will always be more need than there is money. There's always something good we can do for the troops."

Family helps train dog to assist handicapped

By 2nd Lt. Jessica Miller
Public Affairs

Lynn is wheelchair-bound and realized when she was taking a bath one night she forgot to set the lock on her wheelchair. When her service dog walked by, he bumped her chair with his working vest and the chair rolled into the hallway out of Lynn's sight.

She quickly thought she could crawl along the ground to get the chair or call her mom for help. Realizing the phone was in her run-away chair, she gave Empire, her service dog, a call.

"Get it," Lynn said to Empire in hopes he would bring back the phone. Not only did he bring back the phone but pulled the chair in with him.

Empire is a dog from Canine Companions for Independence, a non-profit organization designed to train dogs to assist people with disabilities. CCI incorporates hundreds of volunteers nationally, and a portion of the volunteers are "Puppy Raisers" who take the responsibility to raise and give basic obedience training to future CCI dogs.

Gina Van Horn, wife of Lt. Col. Frank Van Horn, 47th Operations Support Squadron director of operations, has taken on the responsibility as a "Puppy Raiser" for the CCI program.

"Eleven years ago, when we were stationed at McChord Air Force Base, I saw a CCI puppy and have been researching the program since," she said.

Mrs. Van Horn received a lot of information about the program including the experience about Lynn and her CCI dog, Empire, before volunteering for the job.

After moving into base housing here, she drove to the San Antonio International Airport in the middle of June to pick up Hala, a 2-month-old golden/labrador retriever mix. All the CCI breeding is in Oceanside, Calif.

Hala is 3 months old and is still learning the basics. She sleeps in a kennel at night and stays next to Mrs. Van Horn's side almost all day. Hala even takes trips with the family to New Braunfels.

Mrs. Van Horn takes Hala to obedience classes at the Fiesta Center twice a month and has a video and a lot of literature from CCI on how to conduct training at home.

"This is an all day job," she said. "Once Hala's potty trained and learned basic obedience we will take her to places like the Base Exchange, commissary, post office and library. She'll be around 5 months old then."

The blue and yellow training jacket stands out on Hala's black coat when she's in training mode. Adults and children are encouraged to interact with her when she's in public, but should also remember she is in training so she cannot play like other dogs.

"Hala wears a halti, or Gentle Leader, around her mouth to help control her," Mrs. Van Horn said. "She can still eat and drink normally with the halti, which is similar to a halter on a horse. This helps a disabled person control the dog easier than just a leash."

Mrs. Van Horn is not the only trainer for Hala. Daughters Megan, 7, and Lauren, 3, help out by giving a lot of love and affection. Some of the girl's toys have become gifts to Hala, Gina said, holding up one of the stuffed animals next to the puppy.

It is important for the puppies to get along with children because sometimes disabled children receive dogs, Mrs. Van Horn explained. They are called assisted service dogs. The parents take care of the dog while the dog assists the child in simple tasks like turning on the light or retrieving the phone.

Spending time around other animals is also important and 11-year-old Buddy, the Van Horn's golden



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Miller

Gina Van Horn, wife of Lt. Col. Frank Van Horn, 47th Operations Support Squadron director of operations, praises Hala, a 3-month-old golden/labrador retriever mix, for sitting on-command in her front yard of base housing. Hala is a puppy-in-training for the Canine Companions for Independence.

retriever, is ready to help. He helps Hala in her training and gets her used to being around another dog. Buddy has graciously accepted her into his home, Mrs. Van Horn said.

Waking up in the middle of the night is the most challenging for Mrs. Van Horn right now.

"She is just a puppy and needs to be let out in the middle of the night," Mrs. Van Horn said.

Mrs. Van Horn will sacrifice sleep because she loves how this program helps people in need. The stories CCI sent her about how these dogs have helped others are very touching and amazing.

"Hala will stay with us for 14 months until we have to return her to CCI for her advanced training," Mrs. Van Horn said.

Advanced training lasts six to eight months, and in this phase the dogs are trained for four specialty functions: service dog, assisted service dog, hearing dog or facility dog. Service dogs assist individuals with mobility challenges; assisted service

dogs perform interactive and practical tasks for a disabled individual while another person takes care of the dog; hearing dogs help those who are deaf or hard of hearing; and facility dogs are used as therapy for those in mental, physical and emotional care.

After advanced training, Mrs. Van Horn will fly out to California and physically hand over Hala to the person Hala will be assisting.

"I have been putting together a scrapbook of pictures of Hala growing up so I can pass her memories along with her at that time," Mrs. Van Horn said.

In a couple of years, Hala will make a difference in someone's life like Empire did for Lynn, thanks to those, like Mrs. Van Horn, who volunteer to be "Puppy Raisers."

To find more information on the CCI program, check the new Texas/Oklahoma Web site at www.cciheartlandchampions.org or the national Web site at www.caninecompanions.org.

Interested in the Air Force? Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday* • 5 p.m., Mass
Sunday • 9:30 a.m., Mass
 • 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall
Thursday • 6 p.m., Choir
Tuesday-Friday • 12:05 p.m., Mass
 • 12:05 p.m. and 7 p.m., Holy Days of Obligation

Reconciliation • Before Sunday Mass, Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. and by appointment

Religious Education

- 11 a.m. and noon Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Friday* • 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services

Protestant

- Saturday* • 6 p.m., Singles Bible study, in chapel annex; food is served
Sunday • 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school for all ages in chapel annex
 • 11 a.m., General worship
 • 6 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship
Wednesday • 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

The *XLer*



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Master Sgt. William Arnold
47th Medical Group superintendent

Hometown: Tallahassee, Fla.

Family: Sons, Roderick, Michael and Billy; daughters, Ivana and Jacquelyn

Time at Laughlin: 5 years

Time in service: 23 years

Greatest accomplishment:

A successful tour as a single parent and having my kids turn out okay in spite of me

Hobbies: Golfing and computer games

Bad habit: Eating banana split ice cream until late at night

Favorite film: The Ten Commandments or any of the Star Trek or Star Wars movies

Favorite musician:

Stephanie Mills

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?

Moses. I would like to know how he overcame his fear of failure and found the faith to go out and become one of the world's greatest leaders.



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Med group defeats LCSAM, 12-10

**By Airman
Timothy J. Stein**
Staff writer

In a late inning come-back, the 47th Medical Group defeated Laughlin Civil Serice Aircraft Maintenance 1, 12-10, Wednesday at Babe Ruth Field.

Med Group pitcher, Hank Bowman, had the game-winning hit in the bottom of the fifth inning while his team was down 10-9. Bowman nailed a double, scoring two and putting his team up for good.

The game started out good for the Med Group.

With five hits in the first inning, including a double by David Morrison, which scored two runs, they found themselves with a 4-0 lead.

The lead didn't last long. LCSAM quickly got their bats working, picking up three runs in the second and six in the third. The Med Group picked up three runs in the second, but in a couple of quick innings they found themselves down by one run.

The score remained 8-7 in favor of LCSAM until the fifth inning. The LCSAM hitters got two runs in the top

of the inning to cushion their lead by three with only one more inning to go because time was running out.

The Med Group needed some runs in a hurry. In the bottom of the fifth, Med Group got exactly that with Bowman's hit. By the end of the inning the Med group reclaimed the lead, 11-10.

The Med Group shut down LCSAM in the sixth and added a run of their own before time was called. Med Group stands at 8-0 on the year while LCSAM fell to 5-5.

Softball Schedule

Thursday

7p.m. CCS vs LCSAM 2
8p.m. CES vs Med Gp
9p.m. 87th vs SFS

July 29

7p.m. 84/85 vs Med Gp
8p.m. LCS 1 vs LCS 2
9 p.m. 86th vs SFS

July 30

7p.m. OSS vs LCSAM 2
8p.m. 84/85 vs CES
9p.m. 86th vs LSI

July 31

7p.m. OSS 1 vs LCSAM
8p.m. 87th vs CCS
9p.m. CES vs LSI

Softball Standings

American League

OSS 1	8-2
86th FTS	6-4
LCSAM 1	5-5
87th FTS	4-5
84/85 FTS	3-6
Trend western	0-12

National League

Med Group	8-0
CES	7-1
LSI	6-1
CCS	5-4
SFS	4-4
LCSAM 2	1-6
OSS 2	2-10



XL Fitness Center hours

**Monday –
Thursday:**
5 a.m. to
midnight

Friday:
5 a.m. to midnight
Saturday – Sunday:
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Holidays:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.